Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

15 October 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 11, 2007

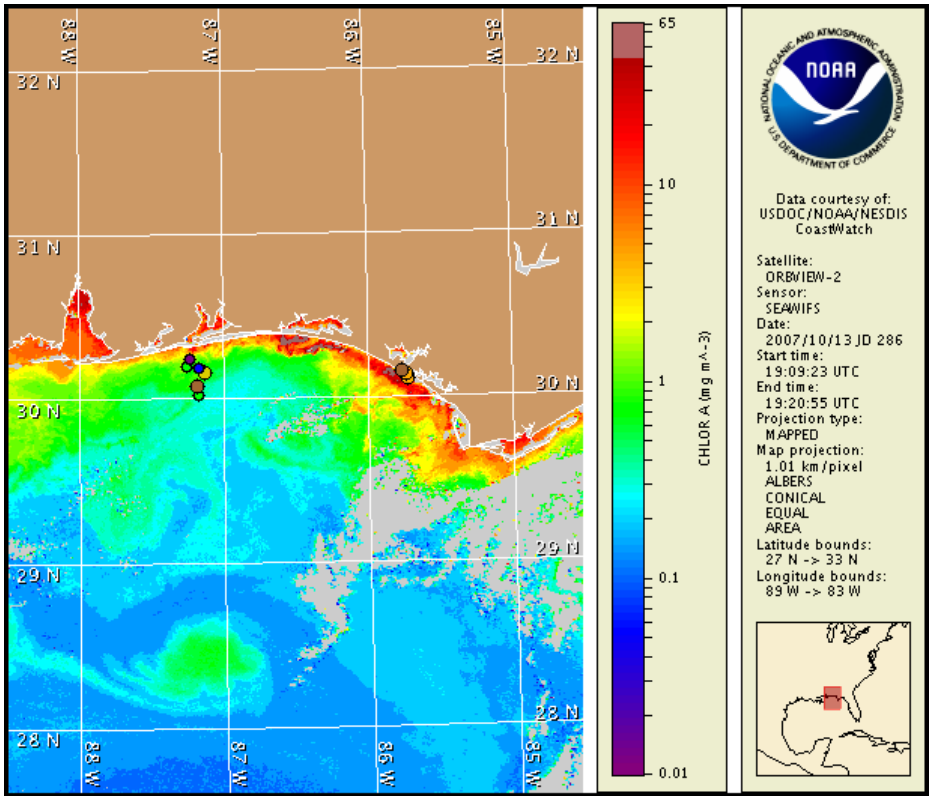
Conditions Report

NW Florida: A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches in Escambia, Bay, and Gulf Counties along the Florida Panhandle. Patchy moderate impacts are possible for Bay County through Thursday, with patchy high impacts possible in the St. Andrews Bay region. Patchy very low impacts are possible in Escambia County through Thursday. Patchy moderate respiratory impacts are possible in Gulf County through Thursday.

Analysis

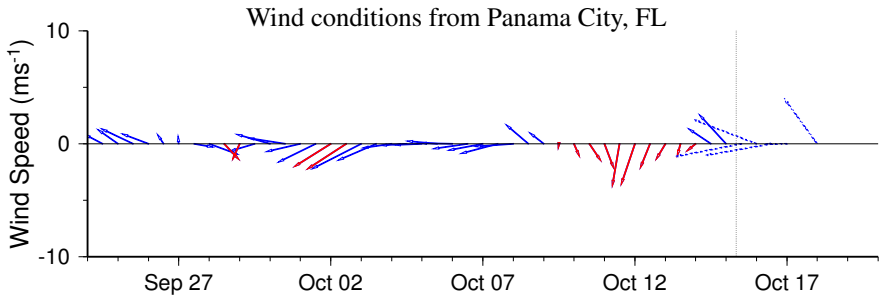
The harmful algal bloom persists in patches along the Florida Panhandle, with confirmed concentrations of *Karenia brevis* onshore in Bay County, and just offshore Escambia County. Samples offshore Escambia County indicate very low to low concentrations of *K. brevis* (10/6, FWRI). Fish kills have been reported over the past few days in Escambia and Okaloosa Counties. Southeasterly to southerly winds this week may increase the potential for impacts onshore Escambia County. Samples from Bay County indicate medium to high concentrations of *K. brevis* at the mouth and just inside of St. Andrews Bay (10/8-9, FWRI). Reports of fish kills and respiratory irritation have been received over the past few days. Chlorophyll levels remain elevated along the coast in patches from 30°22’16"N 86°40’32"W to 29°39’40"N 85°20’55"W. Reports of fish kills and respiratory irritation have also been received in the past few days from the St. Joseph Bay region of Gulf County. No recent samples are available. Northerly winds over the past several days may have promoted southerly transport of the bloom from Bay County into Gulf County. Sampling is recommended. Onshore winds through Thursday will increase the potential for impacts at the coast.

- Allen, Fisher



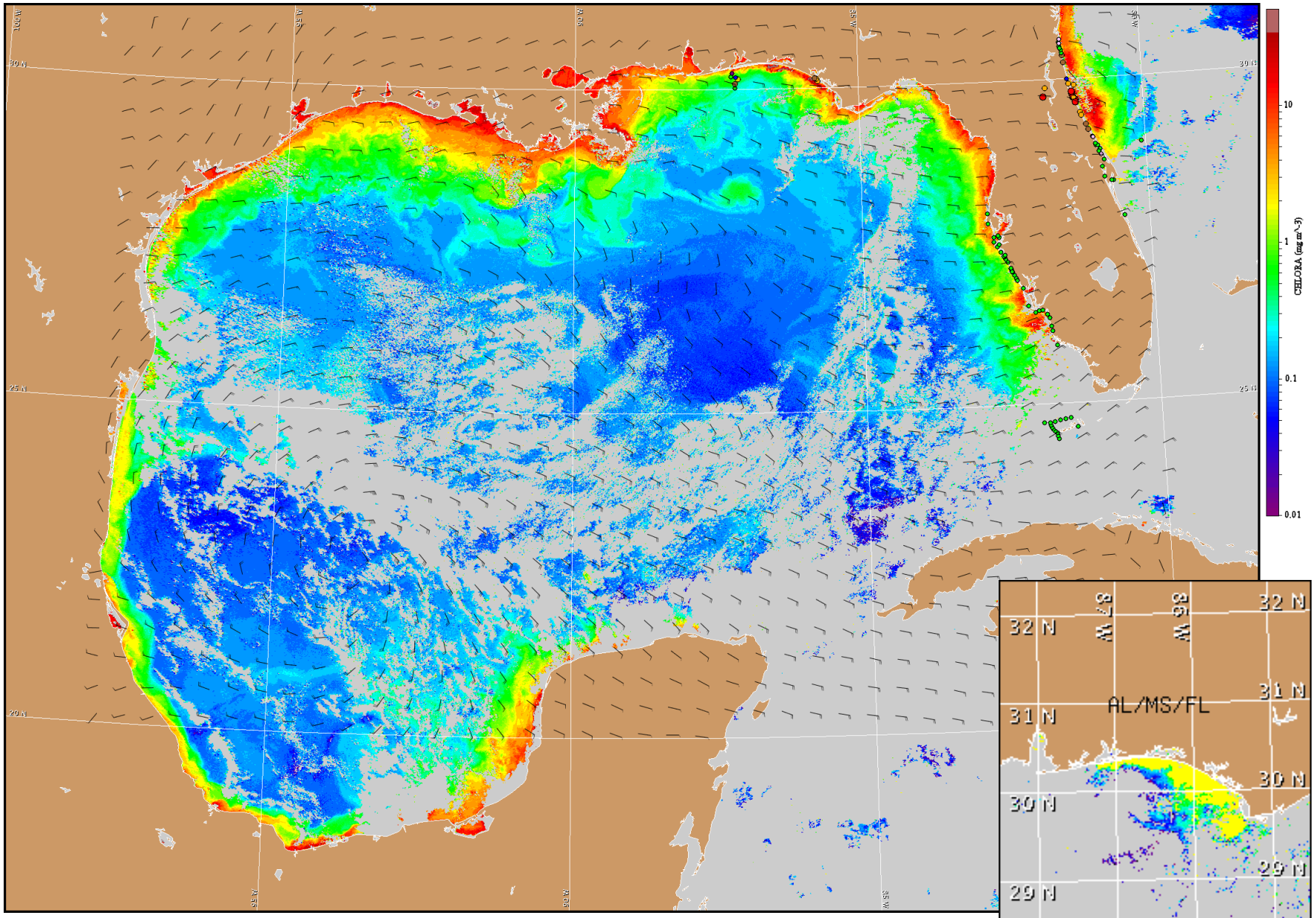
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from October 5 to 11 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

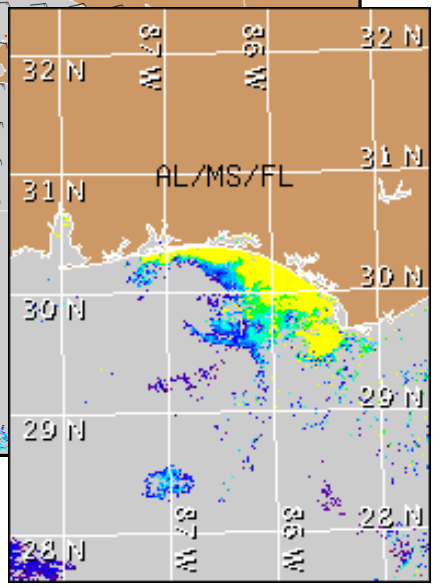


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

NW Florida: Easterly winds today at 15-20 knots (8-10 m/s), becoming southeasterly tonight through Wednesday at 10-15 knots (5-8 m/s). Southerly winds Thursday.

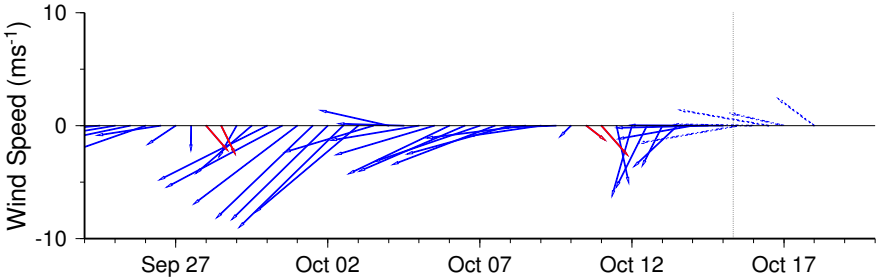


Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for October 16, 2007 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from October 5 to 11 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Tyndall AFB Tower C



Wind conditions from Dauphin Island, AL